

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 FMC-04 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 AEC-11 L-03 DRC-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, OECD

SUBJ: IMCO RELATIONS BETWEEN OECD AND IMCO

FOR EB/MT, WEBB

REF: A) CES/73.94, RELATIONS BETWEEN OECD AND IMCO

B) PFEIFFER/WEBB TELECON, OCTOBER 26

1. SUMMARY: MEETING OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS TO CONSIDER IMCO PROPOSAL FOR WRITTEN AGREEMENT ON LIAISON BETWEEN IMCO AND OECD (REF. A) WAS MARKED BY LACK OF ENTHUSIASM TOWARD FORMALIZED AGREEMENT. CONSENSUS (INCLUDING US) FAVORED TIMMONS SUGGESTION FOR CAUCUS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF TWELVE OECD COUNTRIES BEFORE OR DURING IMCO COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 12 TO DECIDE APPROPRIATE ACTION. OECD SECRETARIAT DOES NOT PLAN TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION SEES IMCO PROPOSAL AS FORMALITY WHICH WOULD NOT SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE OR DETRACT FROM PRESENT SATISFACTORY BUT INFORMAL LIAISON BETWEEN IMCO AND

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OECD'S MARITIME TRANSPORT

COMMITTEE AND NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY. HOWEVER, SHOULD IMCO TERMINATE LIAISON FOR LACK OF WRITTEN AGREEMENT, WORK OF NEA WOULD BE AFFECTED (MTC WOULD NOT BE HURT). WITH ONLY OECD CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, MISSION SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT SEEK FIRST TO DEVISE GRACEFUL WAY TO DISSUADE IMCO COUNCIL FROM PURSUING PROPOSAL AND AS FALLBACK, IF IMCO INSISTS, BE PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH WRITTEN AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPUTY SECGEN (IMMONS) SAID SOLE KNOWN REASON FOR IMCO INITIATIVE IS REQUIREMENT OF IMCO STATUTE THAT RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BE GOVERNED BY WRITTEN AGREEMENTS. THUS OECD REFUSAL OF PROPOSAL WOULD LEAVE IMCO WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO TERMINATE PRESENT LIAISON. TIMMONS NOTED THAT UP TO NOW INFORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH IMCO HAD BEEN SATISFACTORY AND THAT SECGEN FELT OBLIGED TO GO ALONG WITH IMCO PROPOSAL ONLY IN ORDER TO PRESERVE ITS BENEFITS. TIMMONS ALSO SAID THAT IMCO SECRETARIAT HAD ALREADY AGREED THAT IF OECD ACCEPTED IMCO PROPOSAL, INVITATIONS TO IMCO OBSERVERS TO ATTEND OECD MEETINGS WOULD BE UNDER OECD HOUSE RULES WHICH RESTRICT OBSERVERS TO MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS IN WHICH THEY HAVE CLEAR INTEREST. (APPLICATION OF EACH ORGANIZATION'S RULES WOULD BE ASSURED UNDER DRAFT ELEMENTS OF AGREEMENT IN REF. A). TIMMONS SAID INVITATIONS TO IMCO OBSERVERS WOULD BE VERY RARE AND THAT TRAVEL EXPENSES INVOLVED IN SENDING OECD OBSERVERS TO IMCO MEETINGS WOULD REMAIN AT PRESENT MINIMAL LEVEL.

3. JAPANESE AND FRG REPRESENTATIVES FAVORED FORMAL AGREEMENT ONLY WITH PROVISIO IT WOULD NOT LEAD TO EXPANDED MANDATE OF EITHER ORGANIZATION. THE FRENCH SAID THEY WOULD OPPOSE ANY INCREASE IN OEC BUDGET FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT. OTHER DELEGATES, INCLUDING US, WERE DUBIOUS OF NEED FOR FORMAL AGREEMENT. US ALSO SAID IT WOULD FAVOR TIMMONS' PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTATION OF OECD MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN FORTHCOMING IMCO COUNCIL MEETING.
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